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## Newsnotes

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## NEWSNOTES

### NEWS

#### *V.S.I. Transition*

#### **Report to the Vincentian Family in the United States**

Founded in 1979, the Vincentian Studies Institute's mission has been to "promote a living interest in the Vincentian Heritage" among the Vincentian Family in the United States. The Institute has fulfilled this mission through the publication of the *Vincentian Heritage* journal, a scholarly monograph series, and a variety of other original publications, and translations. It has also conducted an extensive continuing education program, offered a scholarly research grant program, and a Vincentian Heritage bookstore.

On 1 July 2007, the Vincentian Studies Institute transitioned from the sponsorship of the ten provinces of the Congregation of the Mission and the Daughters of Charity, to DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois.

The membership of the Institute would like to present the following comprehensive summary of our activities from 1979 to 2007:

- 44 individual volumes of *Vincentian Heritage* have been published, containing 272 articles comprising 6,006 printed pages.
- 19 publications that were original works, reprints, or translations. These works represented 6,489 printed pages.
- 9 continuing education workshops, symposia, and Heritage Tours attended by 572 members of the Vincentian Family.
- 18 scholarly research grants to scholars resulting in a number of studies, articles, presentations, and books.
- An online Vincentian Heritage Bookstore Operation that has served thousands of customers from the Vincentian Family.
- The ten provinces have provided operational funding totaling: \$1,300,761.91.
- Total income of \$2,646,295.00 against total expenses of \$2,624,106.00.
- 41 men and women have served as members of the Vincentian Studies Institute. The representatives have come not only from the Congregation of the Mission and the Daughters of Charity, but also have included representatives from the wider Vincentian Family. These members attended a total of 55 regular meetings held in 21 different locations.

The members of the Institute express their gratitude to successive Visitors and Visitatrixes for their unfailing support of our mission. We believe

that the contributions of the Institute to the rebirth of interest in the Vincentian Heritage among the Vincentian Family in the United States have been notable and providential. We look forward to the continuance of the V.S.I.'s mission and impact under the sponsorship of DePaul University.

As part of DePaul the Vincentian Studies Institute has been incorporated into the university's Office of Mission and Values under the leadership of the Rev. Edward R. Udovic, C.M., Ph.D. Fr. Udovic served as the Presiding Officer of the Vincentian Studies Institute for 15 years.

DePaul University has made a commitment to maintain the Institute's core publishing and heritage activities in support of the Vincentian Family in the United States. In support of this commitment, we have established a national Advisory Board as well as a new Editorial Board.

In response to the university's commitment to fund the annual operations of the V.S.I., the ten provinces of the Congregation of the Mission and the Daughters of Charity pledged one million dollars to establish an endowment for the Institute. The university hopes to double that endowment in the next five years. These funds will support a new generation of lay scholars researching Vincentian topics.

Speaking for his fellow provincials, the Very Rev. James E. Swift, C.M., the provincial superior of the St. Louis-based Midwest Province of the Vincentians, said, "There is no better place than DePaul University to ensure the expansion of the important mission of the Vincentian Studies Institute in support of the many works of the Vincentian family in the United States."

DePaul president, the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., thanked the 10 provinces for their endowment gift. "Having the Vincentian Studies Institute as a part of DePaul University will give it the institutional base and resources that it will need to continue its international role in promoting Vincentian scholarship, especially through attracting a new generation of lay scholars and reaching out to youth," he said.

For the latest news about the Vincentian Studies Institute, please visit our website at: <http://vsi.depaul.edu/>

### *Editorial and Advisory Boards*

As mentioned in our *Report to the Vincentian Family*, the Vincentian Studies Institute has established two boards, Editorial and Advisory. The function of each will be to help guide the V.S.I.'s future endeavours:

#### *Editorial Board*

The mission of the Editorial Board is to give advice on all elements of the Institute's publishing mission including the journal *Vincentian Heritage*, its monograph series,

and other special publications. Specifically, the Board will make recommendations as to the content, format, and timing of said publications. The Editorial Board also reviews grant applications for the Institute's grant programs, and makes recommendations for funding to the Senior Executive for University Mission. Membership is as follows:

Chair

Rev. Edward R. Udovic, C.M., Ph.D.  
Senior Executive for University Mission  
DePaul University  
Chicago, Illinois

Mr. Nathaniel Michaud  
Director of Publications  
Vincentian Studies Institute  
DePaul University  
Chicago, Illinois

Rev. John E. Rybolt, C.M., Ph.D.  
Vincentian Scholar-in-Residence  
Office of Mission and Values  
DePaul University  
Chicago, Illinois

Rev. John Sledziona, C.M.  
New England Province  
Congregation of the Mission  
Concord, New Hampshire

Sr. Betty Ann McNeil, D.C.  
Archivist  
Daughters of Charity  
Southeast Province  
Emmitsburg, Maryland

Dr. Simon Zurawski, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Department of Art and Art History  
DePaul University  
Chicago, Illinois

*Advisory Board*

Broadly representative of the Vincentian Family in the U.S. (and including a confrere and daughter who are not employees of DePaul University), the Advisory Board works with the V.S.I. to insure the continuance of its traditional mission of outreach and service to the Vincentian Family. Membership is as follows:

## Chair

Rev. Edward R. Udovic, C.M., Ph.D.  
Senior Executive for University Mission  
DePaul University  
Chicago, Illinois

Mr. Thomas Drexler  
Assistant Vice President  
Office of Mission and Values  
DePaul University  
Chicago, Illinois

Sr. Joanne Vasa, D.C.  
Provincial Consultor  
West Central Province  
Austin, Texas

Sr. Kieran Kneaves, D.C.  
Spiritual Director  
National Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
St. Louis, Missouri

Mr. Gene Smith  
Executive Director  
Seton Institute for International Development  
Daly City, California

Sr. Regina Bechtle, S.C.  
Charism Resource Director  
Sisters of Charity of New York  
Bronx, New York

Ms. Mary McGuinness  
 Director  
 The William and Mary Pat Gannon Hay  
 Vincent de Paul Leadership Project  
 DePaul University  
 Chicago, Illinois

*2009 Vincentian Heritage Tour of Paris and France*

Plans for “Walk in the Footsteps of Vincent, Louise, and Frederick”: A Vincentian Heritage Tour of Paris and France are being finalized, and registration will open in fall of 2008. Scheduled to begin on Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, and run through Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> of 2009, participants will visit such notable sites as Paris, Folleville, Dax, Carcassonne, Lyon, Chatillon-sur-Chalaronne and other Vincentian destinations. Rev. John E. Rybolt, C.M., a noted historian and veteran of many such tours, serves as our on-site tour guide. The tour is open to Vincentian Family members, as well as the general public.

The cost of the tour, anticipated to start at around \$3,200.00 per person, includes airfare from Chicago (alternate departure points can be arranged), all accommodations, transportation and many meals. This will be our fifth such tour, and all have been very well received. Space will be extremely limited, so be sure to sign up early to guarantee your place.

If you have questions or would like a free detailed color Brochure, Terms and Conditions, and Application Form mailed to you, contact: Nathaniel Michaud, Vincentian Studies Institute, 2350 N. Kenmore Ave., Office 412, Chicago, Illinois 60614. Phone 773-325-7348. E-mail nmichaud@depaul.edu . More information, including all the necessary forms and the brochure, will be found on our web site beginning in fall of 2008.

*Obituary Notice*

Sr. Kathryn B. LaFleur, S.P.—Former General Superior of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, died on 19 September 2007, at Providence Motherhouse, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. Born in Kingston, Ontario, on 16 October 1940, Sister Kathryn is predeceased by her parents George and Evelyn Blanche (Wiskin) LaFleur, and her sister, Joan Evelyn. Sister Kathryn held a B.A. from Ottawa University, a M.Ed. from Queen’s University and a Doctorate in Theology from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome with a specialization in spirituality. She was an educator who served in teaching, administration and counseling at both the elementary and secondary levels. She served as an adjunct professor at Queen’s Theological College where she taught

in the field of Spirituality and served on the Students' Spiritual Advisory Team. She was involved in Youth Ministry and Parish Adult Education, and spoke at conferences in both Canada and the United States. Sister LaFleur authored *Louise de Marillac, A Light in the Darkness, A Woman of Yesteryear, A Saint and Model for Today*, published by New City Press. She contributed several articles to the V.S.I.'s journal *Vincentian Heritage*. Sister Kathryn is survived by her sisters, Sister Mary Joan of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul of Kingston, and Marie Cook (Norman) of Bath, Ontario. She will be greatly missed by the Vincentian Family.

## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS

Tim McHugh, *Hospital Politics in Seventeenth-Century France. The Crown, Urban Elites and the Poor* (Birmingham: Ashgate, 2007), 191 pp. ISBN 978-0-7546-5762-0.

From the jacket: The seventeenth century witnessed profound reforms in the way French cities administered poor relief and charitable health care. New hospitals were built to confine the able bodied, and existing hospitals sheltering the sick poor contracted new medical staff and shifted their focus towards offering more medical services. Whilst these moves have often been regarded as a coherent state led policy, recent scholarship has begun to question this assumption, and pick-up on more localized concerns, and resistance to centrally imposed policies.

This book engages with these concerns, to investigate the links between charitable health care, poor relief, religion, national politics and urban social order in seventeenth-century France. In so doing it revises our understanding of the roles played in these issues by the crown and social elites, arguing that central government's social policy was conservative and largely reactive to pressure from local elites. It suggests that Louis XIV's policy regarding the reform of poor relief and the creation of General Hospitals in each town and city, as enshrined in the edict of 1662, was largely driven by the religious concerns of the kingdom's devout and the financial fears of the Parisian elites that their city hospitals were overburdened. Only after the Sun King's reign did central government begin to take a proactive role in administering poor relief and health care, utilizing urban charitable institutions to further its own political goals.

By reintegrating the social aspirations of urban elites into the history of French poor relief, this book shows the key role they played in the reform of hospitals, inspired by a mix of religious, economic and social motivations. It concludes that the state could be a reluctant participant in reform, until pressured into action by assisting elite groups pursuing their own goals.

## JOURNALS

*Cahiers Saint Vincent: Bulletin des Lazaristes de France*, No.197 (Winter – December 2006). Revue trimestrielle de la Congrégation de la Mission en France.

“La spiritualite sacerdotale de Saint Vincent de Paul” (The priestly spirituality of Saint Vincent de Paul), by Bernard Koch, C.M., 5-22.

*Cahiers Saint Vincent: Bulletin des Lazaristes de France*, No.199 (July 2007). Revue trimestrielle de la Congrégation de la Mission en France.

“L’action de Saint Vincent en Politique,” by Bernard Koch, C.M., 6-32.

*Echoes of the Company*: The monthly international magazine of the Company of the Daughters of Charity.

Issue Number 2, March/April 2006, includes Anne Prevost, D.C., *Special Bicentenary of the Birth of Catherine Labouré: Saint Catherine, her passion for God and her passion for the poor, “God’s Call is Tested and then Confirmed,” “A Personal Formation Course at Rue du Bac,”* 150-166.

*Vincentiana*: This magazine of the Congregation of the Mission is published every two months by the General Curia in Rome. 50<sup>th</sup> year.

Issue No. 5, September/October 2006, centers on the theme: Some “Lesser Known” Confreres (II), and includes:

- Giuseppe Guerra, C.M. (Province of Naples), “Fr. Giovanni Boccardi, C.M. (1859-1936), Vincentian Missionary and Astronomer,” 307-318.
- Jose Francisco Ramos Carcamo, C.M. (Visitor of Central America), “Fr. Julio Pineda Portillo, C.M. (1842-1900), Founder of the Vincentian Missions in El Salvador,” 319-330.
- Juan Jose Munoz Marinez, C.M. (Province of Mexico), “Fr. Ildefonso Moral, C.M. (1835-1907), Apostle of the Laity and of Social Action,” 331-346.
- Alfredo Becerra Vazquez, C.M. (Director of *Vincentiana*), “Pierre Vigne, C.M. (1670-1740), A Missionary of the Eucharist,” 347-360.
- Yves Danjou, C.M. (Province of Paris), “Fr. Eugene Bore, C.M. (1809-1878), Scholarship in the Service of the Faith,” 361-374.
- Teodora A. Rios, C.M. (US Eastern Province), “The Martyrdom of Rev. Nicolas Van Kleef, C.M.,” 375-385.